

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11
DOE-15 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2392
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02763

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UNGA

SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE: GENERAL DEBATE,
THURSDAY, JUNE 29

1. SUMMARY: FOURTH DAY OF 21ST SESSION OF OUTER SPACE COMMITTEE (OSC) CONTINUED IN THE MORNING WITH GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENTS BY AUSTRIA, INDIA, ITALY, USSR, MEXICO, JAPAN AND BULGARIA. THE WORKING GROUP ON THE MOON TREATY MET IN THE AFTERNOON. IT WAS CLEAR FROM ATTITUDES EXPRESSED THAT MOON TREATY WOULD BE AGAIN REFERRED TO LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE. END SUMMARY.

2. AUSTRIAN REP ORTNER STATED HIS COUNTRY FAVORS CONVENING OF UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE BUT SUCH A CONFERENCE NEEDS CAREFUL PLANNING. ON REMOTE SENSING, HE REFERRED TO WORK DONE IN RECENT LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE (LSC) AND SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE (STSC), STATING MORE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE GATHERED AS SPATIAL RESOLUTION IS NOT THE ONLY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. HE WELCOMED THE PROPOSAL FOR A PANEL OF EXPERTS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE STSC. ON THE MOON TREATY, ORTNER NOTED THAT THE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WERE NOT INSURMOUNTABLE, HOPED THE AUSTRIAN
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WORKING PAPER WOULD SERVE AS A BASIS OF COMPROMISE, AND WELCOMED THE FORMING OF THE WORKING GROUP. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE TREATY COULD BE FORMALIZED IN THIS OSC SESSION. ON THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT, HE SAID EMERGING CONSENSUS THAT ALL SHOULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO THE ORBIT SHOULD BE STUDIED. ORTNER REFERRED TO THE NEED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION ON NUCLEAR

POWER SOURCES IN SPACE, AND HE ENDORSED THE "CONSULTATIONS AND/OR ARRANGEMENTS" PRINCIPLE AS A BASIS OF POSSIBLE AGREEMENT IN THE DIRECT BROADCAST FROM SATELLITE (DBS) ISSUE.

3. INDIAN REP, YASH PAL, NOTED LACK OF PROGRESS AFTER 1977 OSC VIENNA MEETING ON THE ISSUE OF DBS. HE STRESSED THE NEED TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE ON THIS ISSUE. ON REMOTE SENSING, HE NOTED THAT SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WAS TIED TO THE RESOLUTION QUESTION AND THAT THERE IS A RESOLUTION POINT BELOW WHICH THERE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION. HE RECOGNIZED THAT FOR SOME SPACE MISSIONS USE OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES ARE NECESSARY, BUT THE SITUATION MUST BE DISCUSSED OPENLY AND A SCIENTIFIC STUDY GROUP SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. PAL HOPED THAT OSC WOULD FORWARD RECOMMENDATIONS ON UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4. ITALIAN PERMREP PIERO VINCI, ON THE MOON TREATY, NOTED THAT IT WOULD ONLY SUPPLEMENT THE 1967 OUTER SPACE TREATY. HE HOPED AUSTRIAN TEXT WOULD BE THE BASIS FOR FRUITFUL SOLUTION TO EXISTING DIFFERENCES OF OPINION. ON DBS, VINCI RESTATED ITALIAN POSITION THAT FREE DISSEMINATION OF NEWS AND INFORMATION SHOULD BE SAFEGUARDED AS A PRINCIPLE SUBJECT ONLY TO THE NEED

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TO AVOID POSSIBLE ABUSES. CONCERNING THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT, HE STATED SUCH ORBITS ARE INSEPARABLE FROM THE WHOLE OF OUTER SPACE AND SHOULD REMAIN FREE FOR USE BY ALL STATES ON AN EQUAL BASIS. ON REMOTE SENSING, HE STRESSED THAT RESTRICTIONS ON DISSEMINATION OF DATA SHOULD BE AVOIDED, AS FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION IS ESSENTIAL. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT OPPOSE THE IDEA OF SOME DEGREE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE LAUNCHING STATE AND THE SENSED STATE. HE EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH LSC DISCUSSION OF EXACT MEANING AND OPERATIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF "PRIMARY DATA AND ANALYZED INFORMATION."

5. USSR PERMREP TROYANOVSKY SAID THIS SESSION OF OSC HAS GREAT HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE BECAUSE OF SSOD AND HE CALLED ATTENTION TO SOVIET SSOD PROPOSALS. HE THEN REVIEWED RECENT SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN AREA OF SPACE COOPERATION AND SAID SOVIETS REGARD THEIR SPACE ACHIEVEMENTS AS PROVINCE OF ALL MANKIND. HE CALLED ATTENTION TO MAY 19, 1978 MOSCOW CONVENTION REQUIRING AGREEMENT OF SENSED STATE BEFORE DATA OF RESOLUTION BETTER THAN 50 METERS CAN BE PROVIDED TO THIRD STATE. HE SAID THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO USE OF HIGH-RESOLUTION

DATA FOR PRACTICAL AND SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES. HOWEVER, DUE TO THEIR RELEVANCE TO DEFENSE AND OTHER SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF STATES, DISTRIBUTION OF SUCH DATA SHOULD BE REGULATED. ON DEFINITION OF OUTER SPACE, TROYANOVSKY SAID USSR SUPPORTS, AS FIRST STEP, FIGURE ON ORDER OF 100-110 KM AS ALTITUDE AT WHICH OUTER SPACE BEGINS. THE RIGHT WOULD BE PRESERVED FOR COSMIC OBJECTS TO FLY OVER THE TERRITORY OF OTHER STATES AT LOWER ALTITUDES FOR EXIT INTO ORBIT AND FOR RETURNING TO EARTH. HE SAID HE DID NOT HAVE IN MIND THAT THE 100-110 KM FIGURE WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BECOME THE

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BOUNDARY OF AIRSPACE - THE REGION BELOW 100-110 KM SHOULD BE THE SUBJECT OF FURTHER NEGOTIATION. HE SUPPORTED THE IDEA OF UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF STSC ON THIS SUBJECT. ON GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT, TROYANOVSKY SUGGESTED REMOVAL OF SUBJECT FROM AGENDA OF STSC, UNTIL SUCH TIME AS NEW INFORMATION IS DEVELOPED. HE DID NOT MENTION DBS, MOON TREATY OR NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES.

6. MEXICAN DEL DANIEL DE LA PEDRAJA, CONCERNING REMOTE SENSING, STRESSED THAT STATES HAVE FULL AND PERMANENT SOVEREIGNTY OVER THEIR NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THAT THE SENSED STATE SHOULD HAVE CONTROL OVER INFORMATION ABOUT ITS RESOURCES, AND THE RIGHT TO ALL DATA ABOUT IT. REGARDING NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE, HE EMPHASIZED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO TAKE MEASURES TO CONTROL SUCH LAUNCHES AND THAT THE OSC SHOULD URGE LAUNCHING STATES TO STOP LAUNCHING UNTIL SUCH MEASURES ARE WORKED OUT. PEDRAJA STATED THAT NON-MEMBERS OF OSC SHOULD BE ABLE

TO PRESENT THEIR VIEWS. ON MOON TREATY, HE NOTED HIS WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE STUDY. ON DBS, HE STATED MEXICO CAN ACCEPT THE COMPROMISE CANADIAN/SWEDISH PROPOSAL. HE SUPPORTED THE RIGHT OF EQUATORIAL STATES TO PROTECT THEIR INTEREST IN THE GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT.

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7. JAPANESE REP KATO, REGARDING REMOTE SENSING, EXPRESSED DOUBT OVER NECESSITY FOR DATA CLASSIFICATION BASED ON SPATIAL RESOLUTION BECAUSE DATA SHOULD BE FREELY DISSEMINATED. HE WAS PREPARED, HOWEVER, TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH PANEL OF EXPERTS. ON THE MOON TREATY, HE STATED AUSTRIAN TEXT SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER DELIBERATIONS AT NEXT SESSION OF LSC. ON DBS, HE NOTED OSC SHOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE LSC CONTINUE TO CONSIDER THIS ISSUE AT ITS NEXT SESSION. CONCERNING NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES IN SPACE, KATO EMPHASIZED IT WAS NECESSARY TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF ARTIFICIAL SATELLITES, PARTICULARLY NUCLEAR SATELLITES. HE REFERRED TO JAPANESE PROPOSAL THAT STSC UNDERTAKE A SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL STUDY. HE STRESSED THAT STRICT REGULATORY MEASURES SHOULD BE TAKEN TO ENSURE MAXIMUM SAFETY OF SATELLITES CARRYING NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE PROHIBITION OF SUCH LAUNCHES. KATO URGED OSC TO TAKE UP THE SUBJECT OF NUCLEAR POWER SOURCES, STATING THAT AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AND, BASED ON SUCH GROUP'S RESEARCH, STSC AND LSC SHOULD BOTH EXAMINE THIS ISSUE WHICH SHOULD BE ON EACH SUBCOMMITTEE'S AGENDA.

8. BULGARIA DEL NOTED FUTURE EXPANSION OF OSC COULD HAVE A NEGATIVE IMPACT. ON REMOTE SENSING HE STATED KEY QUESTION WAS RELATED TO DATA CLASSIFICATION BASED ON SPATIAL RESOLUTION. HE SUPPORTED CONVENING OF UN CONFERENCE ON OUTER SPACE, NOTING AGENDA NEEDED CAREFUL PLANNING. HE STATED GEOSTATIONARY ORBIT IS GOVERNED BY 1967 OUTER SPACE TREATY, AND HE NOTED PROGRESS MADE ON THE MOON TREATY. ON DBS, HE STRESSED

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THE PRINCIPLE OF STATE SOVEREIGNTY. CONCERNING REMOTE SENSING, HE EMPHASIZED THAT A STATE'S RIGHTS OVER ITS NATURAL RESOURCES MUST BE GUARANTEED.

9. AFTERNOON SESSION WAS DEVOTED TO INFORMAL WORKING GROUP ON THE MOON TREATY. SOVIETS (WHO HAD ADVISED USDEL IN INFORMAL CONVERSATION THAT THE USSR COULD NOT ACCEPT PRESENT TEXT BECAUSE OF "COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND" PROBLEM) ASKED WHETHER ANY STATES COULD ACCEPT TEXT AS IT STANDS. ONLY BRAZIL RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY; MOST DELS WERE SILENT. SEVERAL, INCLUDING DUTCH, UK, US, ARGENTINA, INDICATED THEY HAD RELATIVELY MINOR DRAFTING CHANGES TO PROPOSE. IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT NO FINAL TEXT WILL COME OUT OF THIS SESSION, BUT THAT THE AUSTRIAN TEXT, PLUS WHATEVER PROPOSED AMENDMENTS ARE PUT FORWARD AT THIS SESSION, WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE LSC FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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